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Chapter 5 section 1a

SIZES OF FAMILY - *Education, etc.*

I have asked several of the older people of the county if they thought that the pioneer expressed his desire for a large family for practical reasons, and they all agree that he did not. They say that people in those days did not openly talk of such things, but accepted children as a matter of course, something over which they had no control. They say that he did not mind having a large family, just accepted it as the "Lord's Will" and thought nothing more of it.

The more children they had the more work could be done, for pioneers taught their children to help with the work just as soon as they were old enough to begin to run errands, and they were taught to do other things as they got older, the girls to cook, sew, knit, spin and weave, and all the things that they would have to know how to do when they had a house of their own. The father taught, in most cases, the son to do the things that he himself did. Especially did the son help with the clearing of land, the raising of food, hunting, building fence, etc. They usually depended upon the boys to go to mill. The first fences were made by piling together the brush, limbs and stumps from the clearing. Many of these fences for a long time, in fact I have seen a fence made in this way 10-15 years old in a place where the best common fence used.

While most of the pioneers had large families, there were so many diseases such as diptheria, camp fever, etc. that most of them were not fortunate enough to rear such a large family after all. I find quite a number of large families recorded in Prices history. The largest of these was the family of Timothy McCarty, a Revolutionary War veteran, who settled on Browns Mountain. He had 20 children, but he was married twice. By his first marriage there were seven sons, all of whom were soldiers in the war of 1812. By his second marriage, there were 13 children. Timothy McCarty is one of the very few Revolutionary War veterans buried in our mountain land.

William and Nancy Wilson Wanless settled on Beck Alleghany and were the parents of nine daughters and seven sons. The daughters were :

| | | | |
|-----------|-----|---------|----------------------------------|
| Rebhel | who | married | John Logan |
| Jane | " | " | David McLaughlin of Stony Bottom |
| Eliza | " | " | Charles K.K. Moore of Dunmore |
| Martha | " | " | Henry Nottingham |
| Nancy Ann | " | " | P. Nicholas--went to Minnesota |
| Matilda | " | " | William Cassell |
| Margaret | who | died | aged 7 years |
| Mary | " | " | 16 years |

Malinda was drowned when a young woman.

The sons were; James, Andrew, Nelson, Ralph, Allen and two others who died in infancy. These Wanless brothers were all successful and became skillful blacksmiths.

Jacob and Mary Brown Wanless were the parents of 10

children. The sons were; John, James, Andrew, Ralph, Allen, and two others who died in infancy.

Samuel and Ann McGuire Waugh, among the early settlers of The Hills, about 1794, were the parents of nine sons and five daughters. The sons were; Rev. John Waugh, Samuel Waugh, Jr., Robert Waugh, a school teacher, William Waugh, Alexander Waugh, Arthur Waugh, Jacob Waugh, a miller and Beverly Waugh, who led the Mount Zion church class for sixteen years. The daughters were:

- Misabeth who married Caleb Knapp,
- Rebecca " " Andrew Moore and went to Jacks
- Margaret " " Samuel Martin, moved to Iowa,
- Mary Ann " " Reuben Buzzard " " Iowa.

The other daughters name is not given.

Samuel and Ann Waugh, imbued with the faith and energy so peculiar to the genuine Scotch-Irish, endured all that is implied in rearing a family of fourteen sons and daughters and all living to be adults. The sons all lived to be grown and not one was ever known to use tobacco or ardent spirits in any form. This seems scarcely credible, yet it is asserted to be a pleasing truth. Samuel Waugh was one of the original members of the old Mount Zion Church- one of the strongholds of its denomination for so many years. His history shows that in the face of pioneer hindrances and privations, sons and daughters may be reared that may faithfully serve God and support their country.

Samuel Moore, one of the elder pair of Moses Moore the pioneer, settler and saint, married Catherine ... The sons were, John, James, Samuel, Thomas, Andrew Jackson,

Henry, William Daniel, and George Claiborne. The daughters were Mary, Elizabeth who married William Auldridge of Indian Draft, Catherine who became Mrs. John Barr, Eliza who married Price McComb. Price McComb bought his land from General Alfred Beckley who at one time owned many hundred acres in Peachester county. Yesterday I was talking to Alfred Beckley McComb of Huntersville and he told me that the Beckleys at one time owned practically all of the land on Beaver Creek and that not only his father but practically all of the early settlers bought their land from him. General Beckley came there with a party each year to hunt bear, deer and other game. On one of these hunting occasions, a son was born into the home of Price McComb. The General named the son Alfred Beckley McComb and then gave them a twenty dollar bill as a present for the baby. Mr McComb said this was in the year 1859. Malinda Moore married the late Captain William Cochran of Stony Creek. Mary died in early womanhood. "Nine members of this family settled in the woods, and by their efforts more than a thousand acres of wilderness land was cleared and made to produce. It is not easy to appreciate what it cost, weary toil, sweat and tear of muscle and bodily vigor, to achieve what they had. Like most of the persons of his time, Aaron Moore was a successful hunter and made it profitable. One of his several adventures occurred while on his way to search for the body of his neighbor James Twyman who was drowned in Stony Creek, January 17, 1854, and was not found until Jan. 19, 1854. As he was traveling his way along the snow covered path, his

dog came upon the trail of a panther, and treed it in a lofty pine near the river. He shot the animal and left it where it fell to be attended to later, and then hurried away on his sorrowful duty, canoeing the river at high tide. The body of the drowned man was found stranded on a large rock not far below the mouth of the creek.

When I was going through some of the old wills I found Aaron Moore's will. In it he made this provision: "That my sons be taught to read and write, and that my daughters be taught to read." The will was dated December 4, 1837 and was probated in 1838. Aaron Moore himself could not write because the will is signed with his mark.

Thomas Moore was a noted rail splitter and fence builder. Although he never married, he opened up a nice farm on Back Alleghany.

In the will of James Waugh Jr. of The Hills, ~~was~~ he provides that land be sold and the proceeds used to educate his children. To sell land to educate children seems a strange doctrine for that day and time. Also he wills that his rifle gun be kept for the entire use of his plantation. That speaks of a day when a good muzzle loading rifle was a most important part of every man's equipment. It meant a good title to land, a defense against the savage, and food for the family. Most of these early settlers were so much interested in education as ~~well as~~ and they began to provide for it either by ~~sending their children to school~~ or by hiring teachers to come to their homes ~~and teach them~~ as soon as they were well established.

Mrs. Susie Griser-Dead, Mrs. Mae Robb of Clarksburg, Mrs. Lillie Courtney of Huntington, Mrs. Betty Kidd, Mrs. Daisy Kidd and Mrs. Christelle Harter, all of Covington, Va. (I personally know this family as my step-grandmother, Mrs. Mattie A. Poage was one of them.)

From-- History of Pocahontas
unless otherwise stated

Clark McCloud was the father of 21 children but he was married twice. There are several instances where a man had 20 or more children but not to a single marriage.



EARLY LIFE AND OCCUPATIONS

The men and women who crossed the mountains to find homes of their own in the wooded valleys of Pocahontas County sentenced themselves to an existence of great rigor and hardship. They obtained their homes, to be sure, but that initial achievement probably was the easiest part of the battle. Life during the first years in the new land was a relentless struggle against the constant threats of starvation, disease, and the counter attacks of resentful savages.

The home was the center of all the pioneer's thoughts and activities. There were no trades nor industries that were not a part of the home life. The ambition of land-hungry men to see broad acres on every side precluded the development of community life and shut each household off into a world of its own. Within this self-imposed prison the frontiersman labored and dreamed of a day when he might ride proudly among the landed gentlemen of the new country.

The size and comfort of the pioneer home was limited not by the desire or needs of the family so much as by the skill and manpower available. The men frequently went out alone or in small parties to prospect for their farm sites. The cabins they built were the products of forest trees and their own strength and skill with the few tools which they brought with them. Logs were notched so that they fit together without any other fastening. To form a roof, sleepers about four feet long were split from red or white oak and laid across the rafters. Since nails were a luxury even in the eastern settlements, the sleepers roof was held in place by the weight of long poles.